



# HISTORY HAPPENS

Official Newsletter of the Alabama Historical Commission

APRIL 2023

## A Word from Lisa

Hello everyone!

The beautiful state of Alabama has 60 miles of shoreline along the Gulf Coast, 600 miles of tidal bay and bayou shoreline, over 3500 miles of lake shoreline, and over 132,000 miles of rivers and streams, all of which contribute to the maritime heritage of the state. Most of these waters have not yet been inventoried for submerged archaeological sites and shipwrecks.

Changes in weather patterns coupled with the widely publicized identification of the wreck of the Clotilda have significantly amplified the demand from the public in terms of both investigating new discoveries and responding with expertise to local, national, and international interest, in Alabama's underwater archaeological sites.

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) is actively working on the development of a maritime archaeology program that will concentrate on the remarkable archaeological resources in Alabama's waterways. The maritime program will be an extension of our current archaeological program that preserves, protects, and interprets archaeology on land. Surrounding states have already developed robust maritime archaeological programs led by a professional maritime state archaeologist and Alabama has fallen behind in that regard.

State legislation tasks the AHC with the responsibility of protecting, preserving, and educating the public about all archaeological sites and shipwrecks in Alabama waters. Currently, the AHC does not have a professional maritime archaeologist on staff, or the vehicles and equipment required for a successful maritime program. Both are needed to respond quickly to both the increasing demand for reviews of maritime archaeological reports and to properly investigate the growing number of reported discoveries of underwater cultural resources by the citizens of Alabama.

The AHC continues to further educate the public about historic sites in Alabama from both land and water and the AHC will push for this effort in the development of maritime archaeology for the state of Alabama.

**Lisa D. Jones**  
*Executive Director*  
*State Historic Preservation Officer*

## Save the DATE!

**April 17**  
Speaker Series  
Pond Spring

**April 22**  
Living History & Skirmish  
Confederate Memorial Park

**April 22-23**  
French & Indian Encampment  
Fort Toulouse

**April 27**  
National Register Nomination Mtg  
Main Office/Carriage House

**May 1**  
 Preservation Month Begins

**May 6**  
Anniversary Gala  
Fendall Hall

**May 6**  
If Bugs Could Talk Walking Tour  
Old Cahawba

# Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage receives 11 new listings

The Alabama Historical Commission created the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage to recognize Alabama's historic places and to encourage their continued preservation. The Alabama Register documents buildings, sites, structures, objects, districts, and cultural landscapes in Alabama that have historic integrity and significance. Additional sites have been added to the register and they can be viewed below.

- Pondville School House, Bibb County
- Cherokee County Courthouse, Cherokee County
- Warren Family Home, Dallas County
- Colored Memorial Park, Jefferson County
- Littrell House / Liberty Hall site, Lawrence County
- Harris Plantation, Lee County
- Viola Liuzzo Memorial Site, Lowndes County
- Loveless School, Montgomery County
- Christian Lodge #217, F. A. & M., Sumter County
- Patterson Log Cabin, Tallapoosa County
- Lillie Grove Baptist Church and Cemetery, Perry County



Cherokee County Courthouse, Cherokee County

## FRENCH & INDIAN WAR ENCAMPMENT

April 22-23

9 am-3 pm

Fort Toulouse Fort Jackson

This two day event features the main protagonists of the French & Indian War (1754-1763) - France, Britain, and their American Indian allies. Daily living history demonstrations of military, Indian, and civilian life will show re-enactors dressed and equipped as they appeared in North America during the mid-eighteenth century.

Concessions will be available to purchase from BSA Troop 50. (Saturday only)

Admission is \$4 for adults / \$2 for children.



Rain or shine event



## Black Heritage Council appoints two new members



Eddie Davis, Jr.



Robert Battles, Sr.

The Black Heritage Council (BHC) recently welcomed two new members. Read up on their bios [here](#). Founded in 1984, the AHC created the BHC to advise the Commission on the preservation of historic sites in Alabama.

## NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Check out the new face at AHC!



Laquanda Franklin  
Finance

# National Park Service highlights federal tax projects in annual report

The National Park Service annual report highlights the \$6.56 billion investment in 858 completed rehabilitations of historic buildings in fiscal year 2022.

With over 48,000 completed projects since its enactment in 1976, the program has leveraged over \$122.90 billion in private investment in the rehabilitation of historic properties—spurring the rehabilitation of historic structures of every period, size, style, and type in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The National Park Service approved 11 rehabilitation projects in Alabama in fiscal year 2022. Historic buildings in Fort Payne, Birmingham, and Mobile were rehabilitated for use as a rental house, a school, loft apartments, and offices. The Fernbank Apartment building in Mobile was constructed in 1927 and rehabilitated for continued use as apartments. Read more about this project [here](#).

For more information on the [federal historic tax credit program](#), contact Chloe Mercer at [chloe.mercer@ahc.alabama.gov](mailto:chloe.mercer@ahc.alabama.gov) or 334-230-2669.



Fernbank apartment building, Mobile

# A historical marker dedication

On February 19, AHC Marker Coordinator Leanne Waller-Trupp attended a dedication ceremony for the marker for Delta Zeta sorority on the University of Alabama campus. The marker commemorates the 100-year anniversary of the Alpha Gamma chapter of Delta Zeta at UA. Alpha Gamma has remained in continuous operation at the University of Alabama since 1922 and is the 14th oldest Delta Zeta chapter in operation. Read more on the marker program [here](#).



AHC Marker Coordinator Leanne Waller-Trupp and family with marker.

# Freedom Rides Museum unveils its newest exhibit panels

On [March 2](#), the Freedom Rides Museum unveiled new exterior panels as part of the next phase of a \$2 million multi-phase project that is funded by \$1.2 million from the AHC with additional grants through the Historic Preservation fund of the National Park Service and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The event attracted more than 100 supporters including Chief Judge Emily Marks and Judge Myron Thompson along with the family of late Congressman John Lewis and Freedom Rider Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr., city and state officials, local leaders, AHC staff, and more.

